



# Tall Fescue

## Fertilization & Weed Prevention Program

[www.wplawinc.com](http://www.wplawinc.com)

Let's create something beautiful

### INTRODUCTION

Since 1970, W. P. Law, Inc. has been the trusted source for irrigation components throughout South Carolina. We are proud to announce the newest line of products to help keep your property looking its best. Our contractor grade fertilizers and weed prevention products will ensure you get the professional results you desire.

The horticulture staff at W. P. Law, Inc. has assembled an easy-to-follow schedule with application rates to take the guess work out of proper fertilization and weed control.

Allow us to use our numerous years of experience to assist you in saving time while producing a healthier landscape.

### BACKGROUND

Fescue is cool season grass that is limited primarily to the upstate of South Carolina. Fescue stays green year round and is established through seeding or sodding. Seeding should be performed in early fall to give it enough time to mature before hot weather in the summertime. Since there are several species of fescue, texture can vary from fine to coarse.

Fescue should be established at the onset of cool weather in order to give it enough time to mature prior to hot weather. Preventative fungicide treatments should be made during summer months to alleviate disease pressure that occurs during this stressful period.

High nitrogen fertilizer applications should be avoided during these times as well, as they can weaken the plant. By increasing potassium levels prior to heat stress, fescue has a greater chance of survival. Potassium helps with disease resistance and water uptake within the plant.

Brown patch is the primary disease that attacks fescue. This disease is most active on fescue during summer months when the grass is under stress. Preventative fungicide applications can help reduce the severity of this disease. Mowing heights should be raised during stressful periods as well.

### COMMON MANAGEMENT MISTAKES

- Mowing height too low
- Reseeding timing
- Nitrogen applications during the summer
- Improper watering practices



Soil Testing Services Available



Get the free mobile app at  
<http://gettag.mobi>

After downloading  
the app, scan this  
tag to visit our  
website

## SOILS

A practical understanding of your soil is essential in managing your lawn. Soil pH is perhaps the most crucial element. Most turf grasses perform best when the soil pH falls between 6.3 and 7.0. If your soil pH does not fall within this range, essential nutrients will not be available to the grass. We recommend that a soil test be performed annually to check the pH values as well as other nutrient levels within the soil profile. W.P. Law Inc. offers a complete soil testing service. Soil samples can be dropped off at any of our locations around the state.

**Sol-u-Cal** - Used to adjust soil pH. When applied at a rate of 12 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft., Sol-u-Cal will raise the pH as much as one point in as little as 4-6 weeks.

## PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDES

Pre-emergent herbicides are used to prevent annual weeds from germinating in your lawn by forming a protective chemical barrier on the soil surface. There are both cool season and warm season annual weeds that germinate at various times throughout the year. By applying a pre-emergent herbicide, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. NEVER apply these products on a lawn that is not well established! Do not apply pre-emergent herbicides prior to reseeding.

## TALL FESCUE TRAITS

**Fertility** - Medium  
**Drought Tolerance** - Low  
**Shade Tolerance** - Good  
**Disease Problems** - Patch Disease  
**Insect Problems** - Low  
**Recovery Rate** - Poor  
**Density** - Low  
**Texture** - Fine to coarse depending on cultivar  
**Wear Tolerance** - Poor

## CHEMICALS / FERTILIZATION

The most important part of managing a Fescue lawn is providing fertilizer and preventing disease, insects and weeds. The programs listed will provide all the essential elements that your lawn requires in a season to grow healthy.

## AERATION

Aeration has two purposes. The first is to simply loosen the soil. The second is to prune the roots. Core aeration is the recommended method and should be performed every 2 years on a typical home lawn during the growing season. If your lawn receives heavy foot traffic, it is advisable to aerate every year. Aeration should be performed during the growing season of the turf. Fall is a good time to aerate Fescue lawns prior to reseeding.



## MOWING

One of the key principles to maintaining a healthy fescue lawn is proper mowing. Due to the high humidity and temperatures in South Carolina, it is necessary that fescue be mowed no closer than 3 1/2 inches during the summer months. If you desire, fescue can be mowed as low as 2 1/2 inches during the cooler times of the year. As temperatures rise in late spring, mowing heights should be raised as well. A good rule of thumb is to **NEVER** remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade during mowing.



Mow Fescue between 3 - 4 inches.

For a complete list of labels and MSDS for the products listed in this program, visit our website at

[www.wplawinc.com/labels\\_msds](http://www.wplawinc.com/labels_msds)

## WATERING

The watering requirement for your Fescue lawn will vary greatly due to constantly changing weather conditions. During the growing season, it may need anywhere from 0-1.5" of water per week. The professionals at W. P. Law, Inc. suggest using an irrigation controller with a weather station or soil moisture sensors to compensate for these changing conditions.

Studies have shown these types of controllers can save 20-50% on your water bill over traditional time based controllers. Existing controllers can also be fitted with this water saving technology.

In addition to saving water and money, there is no need for continual adjustment. The result is a better looking lawn with less effort. Because these "smart controllers" only apply water when needed, they will usually pay for themselves in water savings within the first year.



Irrigation controller and weather station.

### Disclaimer:

This fertilizer and weed prevention program is an informal reference for herbicides and fertilizers available for turfgrass management. It is not meant to supplement any product labels. Herbicide and fertilizer labels should always be consulted before being applied. Labels are subject to change without notice. Due to differences in grass varieties, environmental conditions, temperature, stress, moisture conditions, plant health, and other factors, herbicide and fertilizer applications may cause undesirable injury to grasses. W.P. Law Inc. does not guarantee or warranty the use of products listed in this program. Please remember that the label is the law.

## TALL FESCUE FERTILIZER AND WEED PREVENTION PROGRAM

January	<b>Soil Test and Sol-u-cal (if necessary)</b> - Soil Testing available through W. P. Law, Inc. Sol-u-cal adds calcium to the soil and raises the pH to ensure necessary nutrients are available to your grass.
Feb. 15th- March 1st	<b>16-0-8 Barricade 0.38%</b> (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) Provides nitrogen and pre-emergent for green-up and extended weed control.
April 15th- May 1st	<b>16-0-8 Barricade 0.38%</b> or <b>19-0-6 Confront3 + Dimension 0.145%</b> (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) (4# per 1000 sq. ft.) 16-0-8 Barricade provides extended preventative weed control <b>Or</b> use 19-0-6 Confront3 + Dimension to control existing broadleaf weeds with the addition of Dimension for extended preventative weed control.
June 1st- 15th	<b>6-1-11 with 7% Iron</b> (5# per 1000 sq. ft.) Prevents stress and adds iron for good color.
Sept. 15th- 30th	<b>16-25-12 Starter Fertilizer with 25% MESA</b> (4# per 1000 sq. ft.) Starter fertilizer to promote root growth and seed germination during reseeding.
Nov. 1st- 15th	<b>25-0-5 Fertilizer with 50% MESA</b> (4# per 1000 sq. ft.) Provides slow-release nitrogen to maintain steady growth.
Dec. 1st- 15th	<b>25-0-5 Fertilizer with 50% MESA</b> (4# per 1000 sq. ft.) Provides slow-release nitrogen to maintain steady growth.



**Need a reminder of when to apply? . . . Go to**  
[\*\*www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program\*\*](http://www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program)  
**and sign up to receive e-mail**  
**notifications and important information**

In addition to fertilizers, W.P. Law Inc. offers a broad range of control products to keep landscapes looking their best. Our insect control program works great on fire ants and other lawn damaging insects. This newer generation broad-spectrum insecticide gives up to three months control and works on insects such as fire ants, spittlebugs, armyworms, cutworms, fleas, ticks, mole crickets, sand gnats, millipedes, and centipedes. Two applications per year will give season long control on most unwanted insects. Consult the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Insect Management Guide for additional information on insects that cause damage to turf. A copy of the guide is available for download at [www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass](http://www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass)

W.P. Law Inc. also offers a complete line of granular fungicides to protect your turf against diseases that can cause severe injury. There are a variety of diseases that can cause injury to Centipede grass. In recent years, large patch (brown patch) has become the number one disease on warm-season turf. Below is a fungicide program to help prevent large patch infestation. For additional information on other diseases that affect Centipede grass, visit [www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass](http://www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass) to download a copy of the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Disease Management Guide.

Read entire label before using the products.  
Use only according to label instructions.

**For a list of spreader settings, visit**  
[\*\*www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program\*\*](http://www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program)

## INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM

April	<b>Bifenthrin Granular Insecticide</b> Broad spectrum insect control that lasts up to 3 months. Works great on fire ants. (2.3# - 4.6# per 1000 sq. ft.)
July	<b>Bifenthrin Granular Insecticide</b> Broad spectrum insect control that lasts up to 3 months. Works great on fire ants. (2.3# - 4.6# per 1000 sq. ft.)

# Brown Patch on Cool-Season Turf (*Rhizoctonia solani*)

Grasses affected: Fescue



## Management Tips:

- Use low to moderate amounts of nitrogen with moderate amounts of phosphorus and moderate to high amounts of potash
- Avoid nitrogen applications when the disease is active
- Increase the height of cut and increase air circulation if possible
- Minimize the amount of shade the grass receives
- Irrigate turf in the early part of the day
- Improve drainage
- Reduce thatch
- Apply lime if soil pH is less than 6.5

**Symptoms:** Brown patch typically causes rings or patches of blighted grass that can measure anywhere from 5 inches up to 10 feet. In addition to causing leaf spots, the disease also presents a thin brown border around the patches that can often be seen during the morning hours. This “smoke ring” effect is an easy way to identify the disease. On wide bladed grass varieties, look for leaf lesions that have tan centers with dark brown to black margins. After leaves die in the blighted areas, new leaves can emerge from the surviving crown tissue of the grass.

**Conditions favoring the disease:** Brown patch occurs when daytime temperatures are over 85° F and night time temperatures are over 68° F. This disease is more active in the summer months on fescue and can be brought about by conditions of high humidity and leaf wetness of more than 10 hours for several consecutive days.

## BROWN PATCH FUNGICIDE PROGRAM

June	<b>Pillar G Fungicide</b> Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (3# per 1000 sq. ft.)
July	<b>Pillar G Fungicide</b> Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (3# per 1000 sq. ft.)

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